

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings thereof:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). An external additive for a toner, having an average primary particle diameter not greater than 100 nm and comprising:

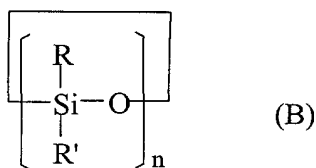
inorganic fine particles; and

a hydrophobizing agent applied to the surface of the inorganic fine particles,

wherein after the external additive is treated with chloroform, pyrolysates of the residual components include a compound having at least one ~~structure selected from the group consisting of organopolysiloxane structures and ring siloxane structure[s].~~

Claim 2: (Canceled)

Claim 3. (Original) The external additive of Claim 1, wherein the pyrolysates of the residual components include the compound having the ring siloxane structure, and wherein the ring siloxane structure has the following formula (B):



wherein R represents an alkyl group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms; R' represents a silicone oil modification group modified by an alkyl group, a halogen modified alkyl group, a phenyl group or a modified phenyl group; and n is an integer not less than 3.

Claim 4. (Original) The external additive of Claim 3, wherein n is an integer not less than 4.

Claim 5. (Original) The external additive of Claim 1, wherein the hydrophobizing agent is a silicone oil.

Claim 6. (Original) The external additive of Claim 5, wherein the silicone oil is applied to the surface of the inorganic fine particles upon application of heat.

Claim 7. (Original) The external additive of Claim 1, wherein the inorganic fine particles are selected from the group consisting of silica, titanium oxide and alumina.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended). A method for preparing an external additive for an electrophotographic toner, comprising:

coating inorganic fine particles with a hydrophobizing agent; and

heating the inorganic fine particles to form the external additive,

wherein after the external additive is treated with chloroform, pyrolysates of the residual components include a compound having at least one ~~structure selected from the group consisting of organopolysiloxane structures and ring siloxane structure[s].~~

Claim 9. (Original) The method of Claim 8, wherein the coating is performed while the heating is performed.

Claim 10. (Original) The method of Claim 8, wherein the coating is performed after the heating is performed.

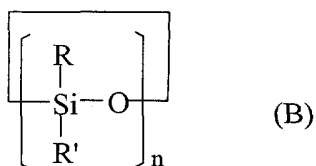
Claim 11 (Currently Amended). A toner comprising:

a binder resin;
a colorant; and
a first external additive,
wherein the toner has a volume average particle diameter not greater than 15 μm , and
wherein the first external additive has an average primary particle diameter not greater than 100 nm and comprises:

inorganic fine particles; and
a hydrophobizing agent applied to the surface of the inorganic fine particles,
wherein after the external additive is treated with chloroform, pyrolysates of the residual components include a compound having at least one ~~structure selected from the group consisting of organopolysiloxane structures and ring siloxane structure~~[s].

Claim 12: (Canceled).

Claim 13. (Original) The toner of Claim 11, wherein the ring siloxane structure has the following formula (B):



wherein R represents an alkyl group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms; R' represents a silicone oil modification group modified by an alkyl group, a halogen modified alkyl group, a phenyl group or a modified phenyl group; and n is an integer not less than 3.

Claim 14. (Original) The toner of Claim 13, wherein n is an integer not less than 4.

Claim 15. (Original) The toner of Claim 11, wherein the hydrophobizing agent is a silicone oil.

Claim 16. (Original) The toner of Claim 15, wherein the silicone oil is applied to the surface of the inorganic fine particles upon application of heat.

Claim 17. (Original) The toner of Claim 11, wherein the inorganic fine particles are selected from the group consisting of silica, titanium oxide and alumina.

Claim 18. (Original) The toner of Claim 11, further comprising a second external additive having an average primary particle diameter less than the average primary particle diameter of the first external additive.

Claim 19. (Original) The toner of Claim 11, further comprising a third external additive comprising fine particles of a resin, wherein the fine particles of the resin has an average particle diameter greater than the average particle diameter of the first external additive.

Claim 20. (Original) The toner of Claim 18, further comprising a third external additive comprising fine particles of a resin, wherein the fine particles of the resin has a larger average particle diameter than the average particle diameter of the first external additive.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended). An image forming apparatus comprising:
at least one image-bearing member configured to bear an electrostatic latent image;
an image developer comprising at least one developing section configured to develop the electrostatic latent image with a developer comprising a toner to form a toner image on the image-bearing member; and
an image transferer configured to transfer the toner image onto a receiving material, wherein the toner comprises:
a binder resin;
a colorant; and
a first external additive,
wherein the first external additive comprises:
an inorganic particulate material; and
a hydrophobizing agent applied to the surface of the inorganic fine particles,
wherein after the external additive is treated with chloroform, pyrolysates of the residual components include a compound having at least one ~~structure selected from the group consisting of organopolysiloxane structures and ring siloxane structure[s]~~.

Claim 22. (Original) The image forming apparatus of Claim 21, wherein the developer is a two-component developer comprising a magnetic carrier and the toner.

Claim 23. (Original) The image forming apparatus of Claim 21, wherein the image developer includes plural developing portions, wherein each of the plural developing portions is configured to develop plural electrostatic latent images on the image bearer with a different color developer to form a different color toner image on the image bearer, and wherein the

image transferer transfers the plural color toner images onto the receiving material one by one to form a full color image on the receiving material.

Claim 24. (Original) The image forming apparatus of Claim 23, wherein each of the plural developing portions comprises:

- a developing roller configured to bear a layer of the developer thereon; and
- a blade configured to form the layer of the developer on the developing roller.

Claim 25. (Original) The image forming apparatus of Claim 21, including the intermediate transfer medium and the image developer including plural developing portions, wherein each of the plural developing portions is configured to develop the electrostatic latent image with a different color developer to form a different color toner image on the image bearer, and

wherein the image transferer further comprises:

a first transfer member configured to transfer the different color toner images on the image-bearing members to the intermediate transfer medium while the first transfer member contacts the intermediate transfer medium and the intermediate transfer medium contacts the image-bearing member, to form a full color image on the intermediate transfer medium; and

a second transfer member configured to transfer the full color image on the intermediate transfer medium to the receiving material while the second transfer member contacts the intermediate transfer medium and the intermediate transfer medium contacts the receiving material.

Claim 26. (Original) The image forming apparatus of Claim 21, wherein the image transferer further comprises:

a transfer member configured to transfer the toner image on the image bearer onto the receiving material while the transfer member contacts the receiving material and the receiving material contacts the image bearer.

Claim 27. (Original) The image forming apparatus of Claim 21, including plural image bearers and the intermediate transfer medium, and the image developer including plural developing portions, wherein each of the plural developing portions is configured to develop the electrostatic latent image with a different color developer to form a different color toner image on the respective image bearer, and

wherein the image transferer further comprises:

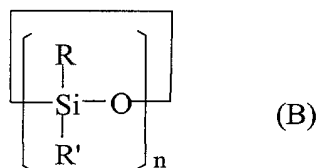
a first transfer member configured to transfer the different color toner images on the plural image bearers onto the intermediate transfer medium while the first transfer member contacts the intermediate transfer medium and the intermediate transfer medium contacts the plural image bearers, to form a full color image on the intermediate transfer medium; and

a second transfer member configured to transfer the full color image onto the intermediate transfer medium to the receiving material while the second transfer member contacts the intermediate transfer medium and the intermediate transfer medium contacts the receiving material.

Claim 28. (Original) The image forming apparatus of Claim 21, further comprising a mechanism, wherein the receiving material drives the image bearer while contacting thereto.

Claim 29: (Canceled).

Claim 30. (Original) The image forming apparatus of Claim 21, wherein the ring siloxane structure has the following formula (B):



wherein R represents an alkyl group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms; R' represents a silicone oil modification group modified by an alkyl group, a halogen modified alkyl group, a phenyl group or a modified phenyl group; and n is an integer not less than 3.

Claim 31. (Original) The image forming apparatus of Claim 30, wherein n is an integer not less than 4.

Claim 32. (Original) The image forming apparatus of Claim 21, wherein the hydrophobizing agent is a silicone oil.

Claim 33. (Original) The image forming apparatus of Claim 21, wherein the silicone oil is applied to the surface of the inorganic fine particles upon application of heat.

Claim 34. (Original) The image forming apparatus of Claim 21, wherein the inorganic fine particles are selected from the group consisting of silica, titanium oxide and alumina.

Claim 35. (Original) The image forming apparatus of Claim 21, further comprising a second external additive having an average primary particle diameter less than the average primary particle diameter of the inorganic fine particles.

Claim 36. (Original) The image forming apparatus of Claim 32, further comprising a third external additive comprising fine particles of a resin, wherein the fine particles of the resin have an average particle diameter greater than the average primary particle diameter of the inorganic fine particles.

Claim 37. (Original) The image forming apparatus of Claim 21, further comprising a third external additive comprising fine particles of a resin, wherein the fine particles of the resin have an average particle diameter greater than the average primary particle diameter of the inorganic fine particles.

Claim 38. (Original) The image forming apparatus of Claim 21, wherein said image transferer is configured to transfer the toner image onto the receiving material via an intermediate transfer medium.

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENTS

The claims have been limited to the ring siloxane structures, which amendments find support in the claims as originally filed. Claims drawn to the organopolysiloxane structures have been canceled.

No new matter is believed to be added by entry of the amendments. Upon entry of the amendments, Claims 1, 3-11, 13-28 and 30-38 will be active and in condition for allowance. An early and favorable indication of same is kindly requested.